



PUBLIC HEALTH

Connections

Bureau of Community Health Systems

What's Inside

Articles

Page 1

Funding Opportunities

Page 9

News & Resources

Page 10

Training Opportunities

Page 11

Job Postings

Page 11

National Guard Officer Lee Norman to Lead KDHE

by Kansas Department of Health and Environment



Dr. Lee Norman

Governor Laura Kelly selected Dr. Lee Norman, a medical school faculty member and officer in the Kansas Army National Guard to serve as interim secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Dr. Norman has worked 26 years as a chief medical officer or senior health system executive, including the University of Kansas Health System, has experience with Medicare, Medicaid, commercial health insurance and case management. He was recently deployed to the Middle East with the 35th Infantry Division, headquartered at Fort Leavenworth.

He was the state surgeon of Kansas and served as senior advisor to the adjutant general of the Kansas National Guard on medical policy, troop readiness and medical oversight of on-site chemical and biological surveillance. Norman is also a clinical assistant professor at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and on the board of Heart to Heart International, a humanitarian organization headquartered in Lenexa.

Norman replaces Jeff Andersen, who was put in charge of KDHE one year ago by then-Gov. Sam Brownback.

"Like Governor Laura Kelly, I have committed much of my life to public service," Norman said. "I look forward to working together with a diverse group of leaders to improve our state's health programs."

Celebrating Public Health Achievements in 2018 and Looking Toward the Future

by the Local Public Health Program, Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

As the new year begins, several local health departments and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) leaders were asked to reflect on key accomplishments in 2018. They also shared their goals for 2019. It is clear the Kansas public health system has had many successes in 2018 to celebrate as well as exciting work ahead in the new year.

Some KDHE Division of Public Health achievements included:

- Launching the Maternal Mortality Review which includes a review committee focused on implementing a comprehensive review of maternal and pregnancy-associated mortality.
- Helping to organize and lead the Governor's Substance Use Disorder Task Force chaired by KDHE Chief Medical Officer Dr. Greg Lakin, presenting a series of proposals to the Governor to combat the opioid epidemic in 2019 and beyond.
- Introducing the "Count the Kicks" stillbirth prevention initiative with over 326 expectant Kansas mothers having downloaded and used the free CTK app.
- The KDHE Office of Vital Statistics making birth certificates available online with the PayIt app and opening its new office in Topeka with increased space for customers and a new registration system on the way in early 2019.

We look forward to building on these successes in 2019 to protect and improve the health of all Kansans.

-Ashley Goss, Deputy Secretary for Public Health, KDHE

"2018 has been an exciting and transitional year at KDHE! It feels like our partnerships and communication has really improved and I hope that you, our partners, are experiencing that.

We took the opportunity to do a Listening Tour with local Public Health Depts. and are working through concerns and suggestions.

Through our preparedness program in the Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS), we are also increasing communication and collaboration with partners across the state. Also in BCHS, we are doing great things in Primary Care, Rural Health, Trauma, Radiation Control and the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program!

While the Listening Tour had a start and an end, we are always open to conversations and requests. And we know that 2019 is only going to come with more changes. We look forward to working through those changes together!

Many blessings to you all in 2019! Let's keep doing the good work of public health together!"

- Kendra Baldridge, Director, Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

"When one year ends and another begins, it is a time for reflection about the previous year, to celebrate accomplishments and to plan for ways to make improvements. It is also a time to look forward to the new year with renewed hope and gratitude. I am grateful for our public health professionals and the work done every day to keep Kansans safe and healthy.

In 2018, Kendra Baldridge and I conducted a listening tour at the regional public health meetings. We heard from many local health department administrators about what is most needed from KDHE and ways we can improve. I will be coming out later this year to talk about what we learned from the listening tour and what has been done to address the issues we learned about.

We have many areas of focus for 2019 including improving communication and coordination as well as putting more focus on the needs of small, rural health departments. I look forward to the work ahead! Exciting things are on the horizon including working with many local health departments to develop and implement community solutions to the opioid crisis, addressing social determinants of health at the state and local levels, the best Governor's Public Health Conference yet, working to address mental health issues in communities, and full implementation of the Kansas Grant Management System. We are also working on an exciting project with the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments to help us better tell the story of public health in Kansas. As a system, we do important, amazing work—our policy makers as well as the general public need to know it! When I think about Kansas public health, I think of a quote: "*Just as ripples spread out when a single pebble is dropped into water, the actions of individuals can have far-reaching effects.*" --Dalai Lama

Sometimes, especially on a difficult day, we may not see the difference we are making--simply scattering one seed or throwing one pebble into a vast sea. One of the major challenges of working in public health is we may never get to see how far our ripples go or see the large tree that grows from the seeds we have scattered. Our work matters and will have an impact on future generations. Let's scatter seeds and throw pebbles together in 2019!" *-Cristi Cain, Director, Local Public Health Program, KDHE*

Celebrating Public Health Achievements in 2018 and Looking Toward the Future Cont.

Barton County Health Department: “Our biggest accomplishments were:

1. Implementing Electronic Health Records into our organization
2. Having staff see and understand the importance of becoming a trauma-informed organization AND seeing them identify new and significant ways to incorporate/embed this system into everyday work flow.
3. Co-hosting Russ Tuttle with BeAlert Stop Trafficking Project to our community to engage and interact with over 1200 youth in Barton County.
4. Switching to the EBT or eWIC system for our WIC Clients.
5. Our ability to provide more services out in the county versus under our roof.

Our goals for 2019 are to become ACE and trauma-informed trainers for our area, to increase our WIC and family planning case-loads and to continue to provide presentations in the community around topics that include human trafficking, ACEs and trauma, and resilience!”

Butler County Health Department: “Our highlights for 2018 include receiving funding from a partner agency to send a staff person to the two-day Postpartum International training and being selected to receive a KDHE Injury Prevention Mini-grant.

We look forward to 2019 as we provide safe sleep information to families and provide them Pack-n-Plays as well as increase the support we give to women and families experiencing perinatal mood disorders.”

Osage County Health Department: “We were proud to be a part of the Foundational Public Health Services Pilot research program in 2018. It has allowed our department to examine our services. Our goal as a result is to continue work with our partners in this project to implement programs targeted to address the gaps identified and strengthen our overall services.

We also were given permission to launch a unique program utilizing a therapy dog in our office to help calm children during vaccinations. The therapy dog’s certification should be complete in mid-2019, with a pilot research project being launched as well. Further support for the program in the form of a grant was awarded by the Emporia Community Foundation. This is exciting for us, as there has never been a therapy dog utilized in a health department in this way.”

Nemaha County Community Health Services: “We collaborated with Sabetha Community Hospital to offer a Breastfeeding Clinic two days a week within its rural community. The clinic is located at NCHS and is staffed by our nurse, Misty Scott RN, BSN, IB-CLC, who is also the WIC Coordinator. In 2018, our agency completed 87 visits in the Breastfeeding Clinic; this is a 55% increase from 2017. Our goal for 2019 is to complete 125 visits.”

Riley County Health Department: “In 2018, Riley County Health Department took on the challenge of working across all health department programs and with community partners to implement evidence-based strategies to increase immunization rates. Staff collaborated to: apply for local grants for monetary immunization incentives and vaccines for uninsured adults, receive and update immunization records in WebIZ, and provide on-site immunizations during other existing programs, events, and services. By the end of 2018, the number of Vaccines for Children and uninsured vaccines increased 55% from 2017. Our goals for 2019 include developing our 2020-2025 Strategic Plan, completing our 2020 Community Needs Assessment, going “live” with our new Electronic Health Record, and becoming accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).”

Wallace County Health Department: “We purposefully concentrated on developing new relationships and building current ones with community members and stakeholders in 2018. We are going to use those great relationships to help us bring a Commercial Community Kitchen to our county in 2019!”

KALHD Executive Director Michelle Ponce Accepts Position at ACMHCK

by the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments

Michelle Ponce, executive director of the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD), announced that she will be leaving the organization effective February 28, 2019. She has served in that role since August 2011.

KALHD is the statewide membership organization that represents 94 of the 100 local health departments in Kansas with a vision of a system of local health departments committed to helping all Kansans achieve optimal health by providing Foundational Public Health Services.

"It was not an easy decision to make," said Ponce. "Working for KALHD has been a wonderful experience. During my time with the association I have worked hard to support the association; to represent the best interests of the board and the membership; to strengthen existing partnerships and forge new ones; and to help develop the pathway that will lead to modernizing the Kansas public health system."

Over the past few years, the KALHD Board of Directors has prioritized increasing member engagement and focusing on efforts to modernize public health in Kansas. The board will meet in January to discuss priorities for the upcoming year as well as transition planning for the executive director position.

"KALHD has a strong board, and I am committed to assisting them to ensure a smooth transition period," Ponce said. "In my new role, I hope to continue to engage with public health officials and work to increase cross-sector collaboration with behavioral health."

In March, Ponce will assume the position of associate director of the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas (ACMHCK), where she will focus on public policy issues, with an emphasis on Medicaid. ACMHCK is the statewide membership organization that represents the 26 community mental health centers (CMHCs) in Kansas. Its mission is to promote a fully resourced system that delivers efficient, effective, and accountable behavioral healthcare accessible to all Kansans through locally governed Community Mental Health Centers, subsidiaries, and strategic partners.



Flint Hills Wellness Coalition Awarded Community Change Grant

by America Walks

The Flint Hills Wellness Coalition was awarded one of eighteen 2018 Community Change grants from America Walks. The Community Change grant program supports local efforts to create safe, accessible, and enjoyable places to walk and be physically active for all community members. The Flint Hills Wellness Coalition (FHWC), in partnership with the Flint Hills MPO & the City of Manhattan, are working towards utilizing Tactical Urbanism projects to quickly, inexpensively, and temporarily test new designs for streets and intersections around Manhattan. This grant allows the FHWC to purchase supplies for a Tactical Urbanism toolkit to implement projects planned for in the Mobility Manual. For example, painted curb extensions to visually narrow the roadway and slow vehicles, while also shortening crossing distances for pedestrians. Toolkit supplies will be re-usable and will include: traffic cones, paint for striping and crosswalks, tape, etc. The FHWC looks forward to working with its partners and the community to make Manhattan a safer and more enjoyable place to walk. Each Tactical Urbanism project will be an event where the community can experience the project and changes first hand while providing valuable feedback.

Since its beginning in 2015, this grant program has provided funds for a variety of projects demonstrating the creativity and passion of walking champions across the United States. The eighteen grantees were selected from over 600 applications for projects that demonstrate the passion, creativity, and commitment of local walking champions. Awardees will work with America Walks and other members of the Every Body Walk! Collaborative to successfully complete their projects and share their lessons with other community change agents. While the projects and programs work to improve walkability, the results of each grant will have a positive change on many areas of that community. For additional information on the 2018 Community Change grantees, view the America Walks [website](#).

Becky Tuttle Receives National Award for Health Equity

by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the YMCA of Greater Wichita

Becky Tuttle, Greater Wichita YMCA Director of Community Development and Past-President of the Kansas Public Health Association, was recently awarded the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Award for Health Equity. The RWJF Awards for Health Equity support nine national membership organizations to honor individuals who successfully use systems changes to advance health equity in their communities. The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), one of the nine national membership organizations, selected Becky for her work to reduce health disparities in her community through parks and recreation within the past two years.

As the Chair of the Health & Wellness Coalition of Wichita, Tuttle partnered with the City of Wichita Parks and Recreation and was instrumental in implementing the [Bike Share ICT program](#), which launched in May 2017. Tuttle served as the primary author for the almost three quarter of a million dollar proposal that funds the program allowing for no cost to the city. In her role as Chairperson for the Health Alliance and the Coalition of Coalitions Building the Case for Public Health in Sedgwick County, Tuttle has been instrumental in the community health assessment and planning process in Sedgwick County to address health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, physical environment and infant mortality.

“Becky is seen as a ‘dot connector’ in the community, leveraging partnerships and resources to strengthen the public health infrastructure,” said YMCA President and CEO Ronn McMahon. “The Y is all about strengthening community, and that’s exactly what Becky does. We thank the City of Wichita Park and Recreation department for nominating her for this award. It’s wonderful to see her getting well-deserved national recognition for the many things she’s making possible in Wichita.”

For additional information about Becky’s current work at the Greater Wichita YMCA, click [here](#). Additional information about the RWJF Awards for Health Equity is available [online](#).

Congratulations, Becky!

Regional Public Health Meetings

by Teri Caudle, RN, PHN, Local Public Health Program, Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

The regional public health meetings for the first quarter of 2019 offer a variety of useful information. Don’t miss this opportunity to learn about the new maternal and child health (MCH) toolkits and how they will enhance success working with women and children. The toolkits will be available for all health departments, not just MCH grantees. Attendees will also connect with the Medicaid eligibility worker in their area and hear from them on topics such as the Sixth Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (SOBRA).

Register for the meeting on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, KS-TRAIN **Course #1082061**.

The agenda includes the following: **New Toolkits to Enhance Public Health Services**, Stephanie Wolf, Maternal Child Health (MCH) Perinatal Program Manager, Diane Daldrup, MCH Program Consultant; **KanCare Eligibility Basics**, Outstationed KanCare Eligibility Staff.

The dates and locations for the meetings are:

- Southeast Region, January 10, Chanute
- Northeast Region, January 24, Topeka
- Southcentral Region, February 6, Hutchinson
- Southwest Region, February 13, Garden City
- Northwest Region, February 14, Oakley
- North Central Region, February 20, Beloit

If you have ideas for regional meeting topics, please contact Teri Caudle at teri.caudle@ks.gov

Trauma Informed Systems of Care

by Vanessa Lohf - WSU Community Engagement Institute

Across the country, healthcare providers, systems, and policymakers are increasingly recognizing the negative impacts of adverse experiences and environments on the health and well-being of individuals, organizations, and communities. Kansas is no exception. With the support of the KDHE Bureau of Community Health Systems and the WSU Community Engagement Institute, Public Health partners in Barton, Finney, and Harvey Counties are leading efforts to raise awareness of these impacts in their communities by training community members to share information in their neighborhoods, businesses, and organizations. Other clinics and health departments across the state are working to improve service delivery and outcomes through internal training and policy/practice improvements. Adopting trauma-informed practices in public health can potentially improve patient/client engagement, treatment adherence, and health outcomes, as well as provider and staff wellness. It can also help reduce avoidable care and excess costs for both the health care and social service sectors. If you are interested in learning more about how toxic stress impacts you, your staff, and your community as well as strategies to create healthier, more resilient families, organizations, and communities, visit Community Engagement Institute's [website](#) or contact the Trauma-Informed Systems of Care team at CEIcontact@wichita.edu or vanessa.lohf@wichita.edu.

KDHE Awards \$900K to County Health Departments to Address Opioid Crisis

by Kansas Department of Health and Environment

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has awarded approximately \$900,000 to county health departments for implementation of community-level responses to the opioid crisis in Kansas. The funding for these efforts is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Opioid Overdose Crisis Response Cooperative Agreement which was awarded to KDHE earlier this fall.

The local health departments receiving awards are Barton, Crawford, Finney, Franklin, Geary, Harvey, Johnson, Labette, Mitchell, Neosho, Pottawatomie, Rawlins, Reno, Riley, Sedgwick and Stevens.

"We are pleased to partner with 16 local health departments to prevent the problems the abuse of opioids causes in Kansas communities," said Cristi Cain, KDHE's Director of Local Health Program. "A local response is critical to addressing opioids and other substance abuse issues. We look forward to continuing cooperation with the local health departments to attack this epidemic."

The local health departments will be implementing numerous strategies which include:

- Providing community education about adverse childhood experiences, trauma informed systems of care and Mental Health First Aid
- Providing trainings to health care providers on best practices for prevention and treatment strategies
- Creating/implementing media campaigns to raise public awareness of the risks associated with prescription opioids
- Educating professionals about the Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment process (SBIRT) and facilitating implementation in Kansas communities
- Engaging local emergency departments to identify and implement promising emergency department opioid overdose protocols, policies, and procedures
- Implementation of an innovative and effective model of community-level coordination

KDHE Issues 2017 Adolescent and Teenage Pregnancy Statistics

*by the Bureau of Epidemiology and
Public Health Informatics, KDHE*

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics published the 2017 Kansas Adolescent and Teenage Pregnancy Report on its website. The statistical summary indicates that the pregnancy rates among Kansas resident females aged 10-19 dropped by 1.6 percent from 2016 to 2017. Rates among females 10-17 and 15-17 as individual age groups also dropped in 2017. However, pregnancy rates among females aged 18-19 years increased 3.2 percent.

The 2017 Kansas pregnancy rate among females 15-17 years of age (9.5 per 1,000 female age-group population) compares favorably with the Healthy People 2020 (HP 2020) national target of 36.2 pregnancies per 1,000 female age-group population. The state pregnancy rate for females aged 18-19 (48.9 per 1,000 age-group population) also compares favorably with the HP 2020 national target of 105.9 pregnancies per 1,000 female age-group population.

While Kansas had lower teen pregnancy rates than the national targets, the state's birth rates for females aged 15-19 were lower than the national rates from 1996 to 2006. Since 2008, teen birth rates in Kansas have remained higher than the U.S. rate; however, both Kansas and the U.S. teen birth rates have been declining since then. In 2017, the Kansas rate was unchanged from 2016, while the preliminary U.S. rate for 2017 is not yet available.

Kansas Health Foundation Awards Nearly \$2 Million to Improve Health in Kansas

by the Kansas Health Foundation

Recently, the Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) awarded nearly \$2 million to 86 Kansas organizations for health-improvement projects and organizational capacity building. Through the foundation's Impact and Capacity Grants (ICG) Initiative, nonprofits receive grants of up to \$25,000 each and must address at least one of KHF's four impact areas – access to care, healthy behaviors, educational achievement or civic and community engagement. In 2017, 85 organizations also received a total of \$2 million.

"We believe it's important to address health needs of at-risk populations based on factors that can influence health outcomes – such as race/ethnicity, income, geography and education level," said Steve Coen, KHF president and CEO. "When we support organizations doing this type of work, we're impacting the health of residents across the state."

Thirty-four grants were awarded for activities focused on improving access to care for over \$730,000 on projects such as providing startup costs for tele-emergency services, mental health first aid training, creating collaborative community mental health interventions, a Community Health Worker collaborative, increasing the number of patient caregivers immunized and strategic planning, community outreach and program evaluation. Over \$400,000 was distributed to eighteen organizations to improve healthy behaviors through a variety of projects including a smoking cessation program, hiring a Spanish speaking facilitator and community liaison, a peer learning job initiative, promotional video creation, and building capacity for collaborative and comprehensive health planning. Fourteen organizations received grants to address working on educational attainment. Over \$330,000 was distributed for projects ranging from training all school staff in social-emotional learning, first aid and mental health first aid to providing training and resources to mentoring organizations and improving mentoring relationships for at-risk youth. Twenty grantees were awarded grants to increase civic and community engagement through hiring a consultant to provide training about project management and strategic development; hiring grant writers; enhancing communications and marketing capacity; increasing community partners and implementation of a data measurement system; organizational strategic plans; and enhancing communication tools. Over \$490,000 was awarded to increase civic and community engagement throughout Kansas.

For additional information on the projects and organizations funded, visit [Kansas Health Foundation's website](#).



Carbon Monoxide: The Invisible Hazard in Your Home

by Kansas Department of Health and Environment

The arrival of colder weather means more homes will be turning up the heat with fuel-burning appliances. These appliances include furnaces, ovens, space heaters, generators, indoor grills and fireplaces that can unknowingly cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide (CO) to build up in the home.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, from 2010 to 2015, an average of 374 people died each year from unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning in the United States. In Kansas, from 2011 to 2015, there were annually an average of 146 emergency department visits, 22 hospitalizations and 12 deaths due to unintentional carbon monoxide poisoning. On May 11, KDHE updated regulations for the reporting of notifiable disease conditions, adding CO poisoning to Kansas' list of reportable diseases.

"KDHE will use the reported information to better understand the circumstances of CO poisonings that occur in public settings in Kansas," said Dr. Farah Ahmed, KDHE Environmental Health Officer and State Epidemiologist. "This additional information will be used to determine if there are any potential interventions that partners can help devise to reduce the risk of another CO poisoning event in the public location."

"CO is known as the invisible killer because it is colorless and odorless," said Cherie Sage, Safe Kids Kansas. "Symptoms are similar to those of common winter ailments, like the flu. Without a CO alarm in your home, your family can be poisoned without even realizing it's happening." CO poisoning can happen suddenly or cause poisoning over a longer amount of time.

CO alarms cost approximately \$20 and can be purchased at most hardware and retail stores.

Tips to protect your family from CO poisoning:

- Prevent CO buildup in the first place—make sure heating appliances are in good working order and used only in well-ventilated areas. Don't run a car engine or any other gas-powered tool in the garage, even with the garage doors open. If you need to warm up your vehicle, move it outside first.
- Install alarms in the hallway near the bedrooms in each separate sleeping area and on every level of the home. Keep alarms at least 15 inches from all fuel-burning appliances.
- Follow manufacturer's directions for installation, testing and using CO alarms. There are many options and styles to choose from, including hardwired, combination smoke and CO alarms, and battery operated. When you check your smoke alarm batteries each month, check the batteries on your CO alarms at the same time.
- Never use an oven or gas range for heating.
- Only use portable generators, gas camp stoves and charcoal grills outside with proper ventilation. They cannot be used indoors, inside of a garage or enclosed porch.
- If more than one person in the home suddenly feels ill for no apparent reason, or if a CO alarm goes off, get everyone outside immediately and call 911 from a pre-arranged meeting place. Pay attention to pets, sometimes they will show signs of illness first. Don't go back inside until the fire department or gas company says it is safe.

The Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal, through its *Get Alarmed, Kansas* program, is working with fire departments across the state to deliver and install free smoke alarms, which include CO detection. For more information on *Get Alarmed, Kansas*, visit, www.GetAlarmedKS.org. For more information about CO poisoning, visit www.safekids.org, or call the Poison Control Hotline at 800-222-1222.

January Is Cervical Health Awareness Month

More than 12,000 women in the U.S. are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year. Take the time this Cervical Health Awareness Month to learn more about strategies and programs to prevent and address cervical cancer. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has [resources](#) available online on HPV vaccines to educate professionals and families about the importance of the vaccine in preventing certain types of cancer, recommendations for administering the vaccine and other valuable materials. Early Detection Works is a program through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bureau of Health Promotion that offers health education, screening, diagnosis and referral for cervical cancer screenings for uninsured women age 40 to 64 years old. Additional information about the Early Detection Works program and the eligibility requirements are [available online](#). The Health Resources and Service Administration recommends the following federal resources on cervical cancer:

- [HHS Office on Women's Health \(OWH\) Cervical Cancer Fact Sheet](#)
- [Read about CDC's National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program](#)
- [Access the National HPV Vaccination Roundtable Resource Library](#)
- [Watch NIH's Video on Cervical Cancer Trends in the United States](#)

Achieving SDOH Population Improvement in Rural Areas Award – Deadline January 25

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have announced the Achieving SDOH Population Improvement in Rural Environments (ASPIRE) award. The goal of the ASPIRE Award is to recognize excellence in rural communities that are committed to addressing the social determinants of health (SDOH). Such an approach requires deliberate planning, strong leadership, dedicated community partners, and a clear vision. While a multi-pronged approach is necessary for this work, applicants should identify a single practice to submit for consideration.

The local health departments selected for recognition will each receive \$5,000 to help further their work and will receive acknowledgement at NACCHO Annual 2019. Awardees will work closely with NACCHO staff to explore factors that facilitate their success in addressing SDOH. NACCHO will conduct interviews with selected LHDs and their partners to collect data that will be captured in a summary report to be released in the Summer of 2019.

All submissions must be received through the online portal by 4 p.m. on January 25. For more information please visit the [NACCHO Rural SDOH page](#). For additional information about this opportunity, including a recording of an informational webinar, visit the [NACCHO website](#). Email pi@naccho.org with questions about the application or award.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Leadership Programs Accepting Applications

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has announced funding opportunities through its leadership programs. The programs are designed to build leadership skills and connect innovators to advance creative, action-oriented solutions to our nation's most entrenched health challenges.

All participants receive financial support and do not need to relocate. The programs are designed for people working or pursuing research full-time.

Applications are currently open for three leadership programs:

- [Culture of Health Leaders](#) is looking for people from all sectors who are committed to advance equity, diversity and inclusion. The deadline for applications is February 20.
- [Interdisciplinary Research Leaders](#) is looking for teams of researchers and community partners focused on community development and health, or clinical practice, social services, and health. The deadline for submission is March 13.
- [Clinical Scholars](#) is seeking teams of health care professionals from all disciplines, including dentists, plus veterinarians working at the intersection of animal and human health. The deadline for submitting an application is March 13.

Additional information about the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and these programs is [available online](#).



News & Resources

The Health Impact of Loneliness: Emerging Evidence and Interventions

One in five Americans say they feel lonely or socially isolated—and this lack of meaningful social connections can have life threatening consequences. Loneliness raises the risk of premature death as much as smoking or obesity. In addition, an estimated \$6.7 billion in annual federal spending is attributable to social isolation among older adults. The impact on the health system and public health is only anticipated to increase with the growing aging population. What is the role of the health care community in addressing this public health threat? The National Institute for Health Care Management (NIHCM) has made available a recording of an October 2018 webinar exploring strategies for addressing loneliness across age groups and considering its effect on health. The speakers discussed emerging models to meet the social needs of seniors and risk factors associated with loneliness; a comprehensive initiative to combat loneliness among seniors through weekly phone calls, home visits and community-based programs; and trends suggesting that Americans of all ages are becoming less socially connected and research on the impact of social isolation and loneliness on mortality rates. View the recording of the webinar [online](#).

More Kids are Showing up in ERs with Mental Health Crises

An [increasing number of children](#) are showing up in U.S. emergency rooms in the throes of a mental health crisis, researchers reported Friday. And the increases are seen in minority children, in particular. It's not clear why, but the researchers say their findings are startling. They are seeing the same pattern across the country.

Keep Off Teething Necklaces, FDA Urges Patients After Reported Death

Stay away from necklaces and bracelets used to relieve teething pain in infants, the [U.S. health regulator warned](#) parents and caregivers on Thursday, after reports of a death and several serious injuries. Known as "teething jewelry," these products come in various shapes and are used by parents and caregivers to relieve infants' teething pain and other ailments. They are also often used by children with special needs such as autism or attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) for sensory stimulation. The FDA said it received a report of an 18-month-old, who was strangled to death by his teething necklace during a nap. The agency also received reports of injuries including that of a 7-month-old child who choked on the beads of a wooden teething bracelet and was taken to the hospital. "Consumers should consider following the American Academy of Pediatrics' recommendations of alternative ways for treating teething pain, such as rubbing inflamed gums with a clean finger or using a teething ring made of firm rubber," FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said in [a statement](#).

Sanofi's Pediatric Hexavalent Vaccine Approved by U.S. FDA

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Sanofi's new pediatric vaccine immunizing children against six diseases, the French pharmaceutical lab recently shared.

The new vaccine, dubbed Vaxelis, is designed for to be used in children aged 6 weeks to 4 years old, to keep them from contracting diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, poliomyelitis, hepatitis B, and invasive disease due to haemophilus influenzae type B. Sanofi developed Vaxelis in partnership with Merck. Sanofi and Merck are now working on the production and supply of Vaxelis aiming to make it available on the [market in 2020 or later](#).



Webinar – Let's Get Moving: The Power of Physical Activity – January 9

America Walks is hosting a webinar for those just starting out on the walking path as well as those interested in learning more about the topic. In November 2018, new [HHS Physical Activity Guidelines](#) were released. They confirmed that when people move more, they are healthy, active, and engaged. Join America Walks for "Let's Get Moving: The Power of Physical Activity" on January 9, 2019 at 1 pm to explore the guidelines and how communities are promoting physical activity with this webinar. Attendees of this webinar will learn about programs, policies and projects that support walkability in rural communities and small towns; hear inspiring stories of communities on the walking path; and explore resources that can help you in your work to create walkable communities. [Register](#) for the webinar online.

Webinar – What Do We Really Know About “The Cycle of Violence” Research and Practical Implications – January 9

Join speaker Megan Haselschwerdt (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) for a discussion on what factors can increase or decrease adolescents' risk of dating violence. It is commonly said that youth who are exposed to interparental domestic violence are at an increased risk of experiencing dating violence in their romantic relationships. This phenomenon is often referred to as “the cycle of violence” or intergenerational transmission of violence. There is ample evidence supporting “the cycle of violence” hypothesis, yet, most youth exposed to interparental domestic violence do not go on to experience violence in their romantic relationships. How can we explain these seemingly opposing findings? Those who attend the webinar will learn what factors can increase or decrease adolescents' risk of dating violence; how individuals can help prevent or break the cycle of violence; and how to help promote posttraumatic growth and resilience in adolescents' romantic relationships. The webinar will be held on January 9, 3 p.m. [Register online](#) to join the webinar and receive additional information about this learning opportunity.

Webinar – NACCHO's 2018 Forces of Change Results – January 14

The National Association of County and City Health Officials' Research and Evaluation team will host a webinar on January 14 at 1 p.m. to highlight the findings from the *2018 Forces of Change* report, focusing on six key areas that impacted local health departments (LHDs) last year: budget cuts and job losses, opioid use, population health, influenza, informatics, and environmental health. They will discuss how LHDs can access and use the data to inform their local public health services, infrastructure, and policies. Register for the webinar [online](#). A recording of the webinar will be made available for those who are unable to attend.

Job Postings

Geary County Health Department

Assistant Community Health Planner

Harper County Health Department

Full Time Attendant Care Provider

Harvey County Health Department

Community Health Nurse - RN

Hodgeman County Health Department

Health Department Staff Nurse (RN)

Lincoln County Health Department

Regional Public Health Preparedness Coordinator

Marion County Health Department

Public Health Emergency Preparedness

Child Care Surveyor

Safe Kids Coordinator

McPherson County Health Department

Receptionist/Clerk I

Registered Nurse – Public Health

Reno County Health Department

Health Educator – Worksite Wellness Coordinator

Riley County Health Department

Health Department Intern – Opioid Grant

Sedgwick County Health Department

Public Health Planner

Public Health Systems Analyst

Chronic Disease Health Educator

Public Health Nurse II

Healthy Babies Community Liaison

WIC Clerical Supervisor

Nurse Coordinator - Health

Shawnee County Health Department

RN (Imm-CD-STD-TB)

Social Worker – MSW

Webinar Series – Weaving a Lactation Care Safety Net: Creating a Breastfeeding Ecosystem – January 15

The Breastfeeding Team at the National Association of County & City Health Officials are pleased to announce the launch of the new webinar series: Weaving a Lactation Safety Net on January 15, 1 p.m. This first session of the *Weaving a Lactation Care Safety Net* 4-part webinar series will address the public health significance of community breastfeeding continuity of care to increase breastfeeding duration and exclusivity rates, and mechanisms that can be used to create a breastfeeding ecosystem including a seamless continuum of care to promote, protect and support breastfeeding in African Americans and low-income communities who are disproportionately affected by structural barriers to breastfeeding. This webinar will also explore how breastfeeding support, protection and promotion services can be integrated into allied public health programs to create sustainable solutions to close the care gap, and through a functional breastfeeding ecosystem, local organizations can assist with making breastfeeding an easier option in the community. You will also hear about the Breastfeeding Empowerment Zone (BFEZ) program, which is a neighborhood initiative in New York that works with faith-based leaders, small businesses, policymakers, mothers, partners and others to ensure that breastfeeding is an option for all families living in communities with historically low rates of breastfeeding. [Register](#) for the webinar [online](#). No-cost Continuing Education credits are available for MDs, RNs and CHESs. Approval is pending for no-cost Continuing Education for RDs, IBCLCs and other lactation support providers.

KU Center for Developmental Disabilities Offers Brown Bag Webinar Series in January 2019

The Kansas Disability and Health Program (DHP) is excited to announce a collaboration with the KU Medical Center Area Health Education Center (AHEC). Beginning on January 15, 2019, they will present four continuing education webinars for health care providers on the topic “Engaging Patients with Disabilities and Chronic Health Conditions.” This is a wonderful opportunity for the DHP to share information about how people with disabilities can be healthy and to increase provider awareness of how to make their services more accessible.

This webinar series will provide the health care community with initiatives that support health for people with disabilities; have an opportunity to learn about barriers faced in accessing health care and promoting health; how to create an accessible health care environment; and provide information on federal disability programs, employment for people with disabilities and ways that medical providers can best support their patients with disabilities.

The series of four brown bag webinars is designed for Physicians, Physician Assistants, Dentists, Advanced Practice Nurses, Nurses, Dental Hygienists, ACHA-Admin, SW, PT/OT, Public Health and Other Allied Health Professionals.

Information about the curriculum is posted on [the website](#), where you can download the PDF containing cost and registration information.

Webinar – CDC Public Health Grand Rounds – Preventing Cervical Cancer in the 21st Century – January 15

Join the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Public Health Grand Rounds on January 15, 12 p.m. for a discussion on preventing cervical cancer. Additional information about the speakers will be available as the date approaches. [Stream](#) the event live or watch through Facebook Live. [View](#) the CDC Public Health Grand Rounds [webpage](#) for information.

2019 Regional Farmers Market Workshops

The 2019 Regional Farmers Market Workshops will feature training for Kansas fruit, vegetable, herb and honey producers interested in becoming authorized to accept SFMNP checks. Workshops will be held on the following dates:

- February 1 – Olathe
- February 2 – Parsons
- February 8 – Dodge City
- February 9 – Wichita
- February 22 – Hays
- February 23 – Manhattan

Contact Emily Carpenter for additional information at Emily.carpenter@ks.gov or 785.296.2330.

Enroll in a Badge Course for Spring 2019!



Wichita State University's online Badge courses are designed for working professionals looking to increase their knowledge and gain new skills. Enrollment is now open for the spring semester! You can enroll and start courses from January 22 - April 19. *All coursework must be completed by May 9. **Please note: scholarships are not available for Spring 2019. Please contact** workforce@wichita.edu for pricing information.*

What are Badges?

Badges are academic short courses of one credit hour or less that are designed for working, non-degree seeking professionals. They are online and self-paced. Badges allow students to demonstrate to employers their knowledge, skills and competencies in a subject area. Students who successfully complete a badge will receive a digital recognition of their accomplishment that they can share on social media and link to a digital resume.

Badges of particular interest to healthcare professionals include:

- Care of Populations: Public Health
- American Sign Language Specialized Interpreting
- Anatomy & Physiology of Lactation
- School Health: Disparities, Child Development, and Nutritional Needs of School-Aged Children
- Medical Terminology
- Creative Interventions

For a complete listing of available courses visit: badges.wichita.edu/badgcatalog Visit the badges.wichita.edu for more details. For questions, contact Keshia Ezerendu at 316-978-7579 or workforce@wichita.edu.

Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar – January 22

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. The next webinar will be held January 22. To view minutes from previous monthly webinars, click [here](#). If you are interested in joining future monthly webinars, contact Margaret Roush at Margaret.roush@ks.gov to be added to the monthly e-mail invitation.

SAVE THE DATE



APRIL 2-4, 2019

Please join us for the
**2019 KANSAS GOVERNOR'S
PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE**

to be held at the
HILTON GARDEN INN
410 SOUTH 3RD STREET
MANHATTAN, KS

